

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PANCANAL BOARD PERSONNEL COMMITTEE VISIT

1. TWO ITEMS, BOTH RELEASED BY TRADE UNIONS, HAVE APPEARED IN PANAMA CITY PAPERS RELATING TO RECENT VISIT OF PANCANAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

2. FIRST APPEARED ONLY IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "STAR AND HERALD" FOR FRIDAY, NOV. 12. BRIEF FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE WAS BASED LARGELY ON STATEMENT BY JAMES J. O'DONNELL OF LOCAL 14, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. ACCORDING TO THIS RELEASE, AFGE SUBMITTED FOLLOWING PROPOSALS TO COMMITTEE:

- A. THAT A HIGH U.S. AUTHORITY SUCH AS THE PRESIDENT MAKE A "POSITIVE AND REASSURING PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT ALL CANAL ZONE WORKERS WILL BE PROVIDED APPROPRIATE LABOR PROTECTIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER TREATY NEGOTIATIONS ARE FINALIZED."
- B. THAT 1971 AFL-CIO "PANCOM" POSITION PAPER BE REVIEWED AND IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES.
- C. THAT U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEES BE PROVIDED THROUGH CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION WITH PRIORITY JOB PLACEMENT RIGHTS WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES IN U.S.
- D. THAT COUNSELLING SERVICES SHOULD BE SUPPLIED IMMEDIATELY

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TO EMPLOYEES WISHING TO TRANSFER TO OTHER FEDERAL

JOBS.

E. THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE INCLUDED UNDER A NEW TREATY TO INSURE THAT CHURCHES, FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS, ETC. BE PERMITTED TO FUNCTION AS FREELY AS AT PRESENT.

3. SECOND ITEM APPEARED IN ENGLISH "STAR AND HERALD" AND SPANISH "ESTRELLA" SUNDAY, NOV. 14, REPORTING A STATEMENT BY LOCAL 900, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (PREDOMINANTLY PANAMANIAN) WHICH CENTERED LARGELY ON THIS UNION'S CONTINUING OBJECTION TO APPLICATION OF THE "TAX FACTOR" IN COMPUTATION OF PANCANAL EMPLOYEE EMOLUMENTS. UNION PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS "VERY SURPRISED AND MOST CONCERNED" TO LEARN THAT THIS ISSUE HAD APPARENTLY NOT BEEN REFERRED OFFICIALLY TO PANCANAL BOARD, AND PLEDGED HIS UNION'S CONTINUING EFFORT ON THIS FRONT. FYI: OBJECTIVE OF TAX FACTOR COMPUTATION IS TO EQUALIZE EMPLOYEE AFTER-TAX PAY, GIVEN FACT THAT PANAMANIAN PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATES ARE MARKEDLY LOWER THAN U.S. RATES. PANAMANIAN-CITIZEN UNIONS HAVE ARGUED FOR SOME TIME THAT CURRENT METHOD OF CALCULATING IT DISCRIMINATES UNFAIRLY AGAINST PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEES AND VIOLATES SPIRIT OF 1955 AGREEMENTS ON SUBJECT: END FYI.

4. ASIDE FROM THESE TWO ITEMS, VISIT OF BOARD COMMITTEE ATTRACTED NO PARTICULAR NOTICE FROM PANAMANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA, AND WE HAVE HEARD LITTLE COMMENT ABOUT IT.

JORDEN

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